

REMARKS

Claims 46-49, 51-55, and 57-59 were pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 46, 49, 53, 55, and 59 are amended and claims 80-81 are new. Thus claims 46-49, 51-55, 57-59 and 80-81 are pending in the application. The claims have not been amended for reasons related to patentability, but are amended to expedite the allowance of this case. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Substance of Interview Summary

A telephonic interview without exhibits occurred between the undersigned, Murrell Blackburn and Primary Examiner Paul H. Kang on Monday, February 7, 2005. The interview covered the rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,557,723 to Holt et al. (hereinafter 'Holt').

The undersigned explained to the Examiner that the instant application shows that embodiment of the invention do not require a necessary customized Form Control Procedure (FCP) or a custom form on the recipient computer in order to control the layout of and display a customized form. The undersigned went on to describe how embodiments of the invention utilize a general form generation procedure of the recipient computer whereby a customized form is displayed using the received form properties and control data not taught or suggested in Holt. The undersigned stated that he would clarify these features in amendments to the independent claims and remarks.

In response, the Examiner deferred determination as to whether a distinction between the FCP and a general procedure not requiring storage of a custom form to create or view messages would overcome the reference of record. The Examiner agreed to consider the amendments and take appropriate action.

This written response is therefore, submitted for consideration by the Examiner in follow-up to the telephonic interview as it is believed to have placed the application in a condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

Claims 46-49, 51-55, and 57-59 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Holt.

Claims 46, 53 and 59

Applicants respectfully submit that Holt does not teach each and every feature of Applicants' claimed invention as recited in amended independent claims 46, 53, and 59. Applicant's amended claims 46, 53, and 59 are respectively drawn to a computer-implemented method, a computer readable medium, and an improved item for transmitting, in an electronic mail system, custom form data as part of the item including a plurality of properties. The method, computer-readable medium, and the improved item comprise, among other features, (1) said custom form data including at least one field for displaying field data stored in at least one of said plurality of properties and control data values for controlling the layout of the at least one field upon application of said control data values to a general form generation procedure of a recipient computer without requiring a custom form stored on said recipient computer prior to said application of said control data values.

In contrast, Holt requires the presence of a customized FCP to implement the behavior of the custom form. Holt also requires each user of the electronic mail system to have access to the custom forms stored on a mail server for download or attached to a sent message in order to create or view messages utilizing custom forms. (See abstract, Fig 2, column 12, lines 3-11 and 33-38). Thus, Holt teaches away from custom form data including at least one field for displaying field data and control data values for controlling the layout of the field upon application of said control data values to a general form generation procedure of a recipient computer without requiring a custom form stored on said recipient computer prior to said application of said control data values as recited in Applicants' amended claims 46, 53, and 59. Therefore, amended claims 46, 53, and 59 are allowable over Holt.

Claims 49 and 55

Applicants respectfully submit that Holt does not teach each and every feature of Applicants' claimed invention as recited in amended independent claims 49 and 55. Applicant's amended claims 49 and 55 are respectively drawn to a computer-implemented method and a

computer readable medium for displaying an item in an electronic mail system for receiving the item. The method and computer-readable medium comprises, among other features, (1) determining whether said item includes a form property, (2) in response to a determination that said message item includes said form property, retrieving form data stored in said form property, (3) otherwise, retrieving form data from a form registry, and (4) displaying said item by generating a form with a general form generation procedure of said electronic mail system, said form being defined by said form data that includes at least one field and control data values controlling the layout of the at least one field through application of said control data values to the general form generation procedure.

In contrast, Holt discloses forms performing custom and/or standard behavior. Thus, all of the messages in Holt include a form property. Therefore Holt does not teach determining whether a message has a form property. Additionally, the data is retrieved in Holt in response to receiving a user input. See Holt, column 12, lines 22- 59. Whereas, data is retrieved in the present application in response to determining that the message item includes the form property. Still further in contrast, Holt teaches displaying the item by applying a customized FCP, whereas the present application teaches displaying by generating a form with a general form generation procedure. (See Holt, column 12, lines 45-50). Thus, amended claims 49 and 55 are also allowable over Holt.

Dependent Claims

At least because dependent claims 47-48, 51-52, 54, and 57-58 respectively incorporate the features of amended independent claims 46, 49, 53 and 55, dependent claims 47-48, 51-52, 54, and 57-58 are also allowable over Holt.

New Claims

New claims 80-81 have been added to provide claims of varying scope from those initially filed. Applicants assert that claims 80-81 are also allowable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION

For at least these reasons, Applicants assert that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants further assert that this response addresses each and every point of the Office Action, and respectfully request that the Examiner pass this application with claims 46-49, 51-55, 57-59, and 80-81 to allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview with Applicants' attorney would further advance the case, please contact Applicants' attorney at 404.954.5041.

Respectfully submitted,
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